

¶ By the Queene.

¶ A Proclamation to be published in Cornwall, Deuonshire, Dorcetshire and Hampshire, for restitution of goods lately taken on the Seas from the Subiects of the King of Spayne by way of Reprisall.

9



Whereas by order from the Queenes most excellent Maiestie divers ships of warre set forth this last Sommer by the Citie of London, to ioyne in consort with her Maiesties Fleete and others, vnder the conduct of the Lord Thomas Howard, haue taken sundry prizes of Spanish ships comming from the west Indies fraught with Merchandises and good commodities of sundry sorts: The which prizes the Captaines of the sayd London ships, haue not directly brought home to the said port of London, as they should and might haue done, the winde seruing thereunto, but into other remote ports and haunes of this Realme, with purpose (as should seeme) to take oportunitie of such distant places for the rifting of the said prizes and the enriching of themselves and contrary to all right and the trust reposed in them, the sayd Captaines Masters and Maryners of the said London shippes, going vpon wages, haue taken out and embezelled divers parcels of the goods and commodities laden within the said shippes and the same haue sold and exchanged to sundry persons dwelling within the said port Townes and other adiacent places thereto to the great slander and prejudice of Sea discipline and wrong to the aduenturers by whom they were employed.

The Queenes most excellent Maiestie, not willing to suffer so great a disorder nor so great a wrong and iniustice to be done towards her selfe and other her Subiects the Aduenturers in the said Fleete, doth straightly charge and command, that all such persons as haue bought, exchanged, or haue any waies receiued of any maner person, directly or indirectly, out of the said London Fleete, any forreine Coine, Bollyon of Gold or siluer, Jewels, Pearles, Stones, Muske, wrought or rawe silke, Cochenelia, Indico, or any other marchandizes, commodities or things whatsoeuer, or that shall haue in their possession any of the goods of the aforesaid natures: shall presently after the publication of this Proclamation, or within tenne dayes next following, bring in a true particular note in writing of the same, with the seuerall prizes what they paid, and the names of whom the same was bought, or tokens decipiring the person and persons, as neere as they can remember, and the day, time and place, where and when the same was bought, exchanged, or received, and soorth of what Shippe or Prize the same was brought (as neere as they can call to remembrance) to Sir Francis Drake Knight, the Maior of Plymouth Christopher Harris, or any two of them, being Commissioners appointed by her Maiestie for the receiving of any such goods in Plymouth: And so goods taken neare Dartmouth and Totnes, to be brought to Sir John Gilbert, and the Maiors of the same Townes: And of any goods about Exeter, to bee brought to the Maior there, and Sir Robert Dennis: And of goods about Southampton and Portesmouth, to be brought to any of the Maiors there, and Sir Thomas West, and Thomas Henslow, or any two of them. And in case any that hath so bought, exchanged or received of any of the said Captaines, Masters or Mariners, or others of the said Fleete any such treasure, commodity or thing (as is abovesaid) and doe not bring in and deliuer a particular note of the same in writing with the seuerall prizes they payd, and the names of whom the same was bought, with the day, time, and place, where, when, and soorth of what Shippe or Prize the same was bought, and deliuer or cause to bee deliuered the same within the time, and according as before is severally specified and intyned to the saide Commissioners aboue named, shall bee held, and taken as Felons and Abbetors to pyrats, and to be proceeded against, as in case of felonie is accustomed to be done by the Lawes of this Realme.

Given at our Palace of Westminster the nine and twentieth day of December, in the fourte and thirtieth yeere of our Raigne. 1591.

God sauе the Queene.

¶ Imprinted at London by the Deputies of

Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie.